

has "attractive lavender-purple flowers distinguishable for long distances across the plains"; and a wild cherry (*Prunus salicifolia*, No. 44885) of the Guatemalan highlands, which bears fruits three-fourths of an inch in diameter, with a flavor suggesting the Bigarreau cherry. The facts that this cherry produces its fruits in racemes and that the individual fruits are of such unusual size suggest that it be tried in crosses with the chokecherries of the northern United States.

The desire persists in the Tropics for a tropical grape of good quality, and possibly the callulos (*Vitis* sp., No. 44921), which has unusually large berries in a solid bunch and which has shown itself adapted to cultivation in Florida, may contribute toward that end.

Of seeds and plants which have come in as a result of the interest of foreigners or have been imported through correspondence, the following merit mention in this statement:

The guabiroba (*Compomanesia fenziiana*, No. 44784), a fruit tree of which a new quantity of seed has been sent in from Lavras, Brazil, by Mr. Hunnicutt, was first brought to this country by Messrs. Dorsett, Shamel, and Popenoe in 1914. Three-year-old trees of it which were standing in the plant-introduction garden at Miami were not injured by the freeze of 1917 and have already flowered. This shows promise of becoming a valuable fruit plant where it can be grown.

Consul Dawson, of Rosario, has sent in the seeds of a bitter variety of corn (*Zea mays*, No. 44564) which has proved of interest to those sections of Argentina which are overrun by locusts or grasshoppers, owing to the fact that the leaves are so bitter that these insects will not eat it unless there is nothing else to devour. Although the variety is a poor yielder and the corn itself is not immune to the attacks of the locusts, is it not possible that so striking a character as that of bitterness might be valuable in breeding work for the purpose of producing varieties of corn immune to various insects and fungous diseases?

It is a curious coincidence that the highbush cranberry of the Northwestern States and the Kansu viburnum (*Viburnum kansuense*, No. 44547) should both be used for the making of preserves. In the improvement of our native species (*V. americanum*), may not the Chinese species be of value?

The susceptibility of one of our best ornamental bushes, the barberry, to the wheat rust and the fact that the various species of barberries cross easily make it a problem of not a little importance to get the various species of these shrubs together and by crossing them to produce superior forms. The existence of hardy evergreen forms and of forms with seedless fruits can not but add to the possi-